

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown defeats challenger Knute Buehler

By **Andrew Selsky**
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Ebullient after winning re-election in the most expensive gubernatorial race in Oregon history, Democratic Gov. Kate Brown declared Tuesday that residents' values of inclusiveness prevailed.

Brown noted several female candidates had won governorships in the Tuesday elections, and Oregon voters had rejected a ballot measure to repeal the state's sanctuary status for immigrants.

"With this election cycle we tripled the number of Democratic women governors serving in this country," Brown told a cheering crowd at a Portland hotel. "Tonight, we can say we fought to keep

Oregon a welcoming and inclusive place for all."

Nike co-founder Phil Knight donated \$2.5 million to Republican candidate Knute Buehler and \$1 million to the Republican Governors Association, which supported Buehler, helping push the race to sky-high levels.

Brown said she would work on behalf of campaign finance reform, repeating a pledge she made to Patrick Starnes, the candidate of the Independent Party, when he withdrew from the race on Oct. 30 and supported Brown.

"No one should be able to buy the governor's office," Brown said.

In the run-up to the finish, the Kate Brown Committee

had received almost \$10.3 million in cash contributions; the Knute for Governor Committee \$13.2 million, according to the Secretary of State's office.

With 61 percent of the vote counted, Brown had 50 percent of the vote and her opponent Republican Knute Buehler with 44 percent. Polls had predicted a tighter race.

"It's not a toss up. It's not even a close call," she said. "It's a slam dunk!"

Buehler, a Republican member of the Oregon House whose term expires around the end of the year, conceded defeat before a group of dejected supporters at a different Portland hotel.

"Tonight I lost an election, but I do think this com-

petitive governor's race has made all of us better; that democracy has won," he said. "Competition is good for all of us - and we offered voters a choice."

The orthopedic surgeon said he'd go on vacation while he figures out what to do next.

Brown was first appointed governor in February 2015 after Gov. John Kitzhaber resigned. She easily was elected in her own right in 2016 to finish out the term of Kitzhaber, who resigned amid accusations of influence peddling involving his fiancée.

The 58-year-old Brown was a long-time state lawmaker before becoming secretary of state in 2009.

The last Republican elect-



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Oregon Governor Kate Brown will retain her spot, defeating her challenger Knute Buehler in last night's election.

ed governor in Oregon was Victor Atiyeh, who served from 1979 to 1987.

Buehler sought middle ground on issues like im-

migration and criticized the Trump administration for pursuing rule changes that could hurt health care for immigrants.

WALLOWA

Continued from Page 1A for U.S. Congress and Greg Barreto for the Oregon State House of Representatives. Each received at least 66 percent of the vote.

On statewide initiatives, Wallowa County voted against Measure 102 allowing local governments to raise funds for affordable

housing; voted to ban taxing groceries on Measure 103; voted for Measure 104 that would have made it harder to raise taxes; supported Measure 105 that would have given more authority to local law enforcement over illegal immigrants; and voted to support 106 that would have restricted public funds support of abortions.

Cove mayoral race to be decided Thursday

With no candidates officially filed for the race, the Cove mayoral race could not be decided on Tuesday.

Instead, Union County Clerk Robin Church reported that the write-in board will be brought in on Thursday to

determine who received the most write-in votes.

Both incumbent Lyndon Rose and former Island City City Councilor Del Little ran write-in campaigns. We will report on the winner in Friday's Observer

Oregon voters keep immigration sanctuary law

By **Gillian Flaccus**
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Oregon voters weren't afraid to say no this election as they weighed in on an array of hot-button social issues from abortion to immigration to taxes.

Ballot measures to repeal the state's first-in-the-nation immigrant sanctuary law, prohibit state funding of abortions and add a ban on future grocery taxes all failed at the polls Tuesday.

Voters also rejected a measure that would have required a legislative supermajority to approve bills that raise revenue in any way — not just through taxes.

The only statewide ballot measure to pass was one that will make it easier for government entities to finance and build much-needed affordable housing.

"Tonight, we've raised our voices in unison. We've shown the world real Oregon values and now it's time to put those values to work," said Gov. Kate Brown, the Democratic incumbent who was re-elected Tuesday.

The measure to repeal Oregon's 31-year-old sanctuary law came against a backdrop of growing national anxiety over immigration.

Oregon adopted a law in 1987 preventing law enforcement from detaining people who are in the U.S. illegally but have not broken other laws.

Delmiro Trevino, a U.S. citizen born in Texas, was waiting for a meal in a restaurant in 1977 when three sheriff's deputies and a policewoman demanded he show documents proving he was an American.

The exchange bothered Trevino, who went with his wife to a legal aid group. He eventually sued and the case was settled in federal court the following year.

But when the legal aid

attorney who helped him was elected to the state Legislature, the Democratic lawmaker introduced a bill that passed with bipartisan support in 1987.

The proposal to repeal the so-called "sanctuary law" was the most controversial of several measures on the Oregon ballot — something that was not the case when it was written.

Rocky Barilla, who wrote the sanctuary state bill and was Oregon's first elected Latino legislator, said late Tuesday he was relieved to hear the measure had failed.

"When the bill went through the legislative process, it was non-controversial. Maybe one or two people voted against it. There was no issue," he said.

Measure 106, which would have banned the use of public funds for abortion coverage, also failed.

Voters have previously rejected attempts to limit access to abortions, including in 1978 and 1986, and Oregon has not placed any additional state restrictions on the procedure since 1973, when it became federally legal.

A measure requiring parental notification before a minor's abortion failed in 2006.

"I couldn't be more proud of our state," said Grayson Dempsey, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon. "The threat was too serious and the stakes were too high to not fight back against this with everything we had."

Measure 103, a measure to ban future grocery taxes, was seen by many as a pre-emptive strike against a statewide soda tax and a grocery giants and the beverage industry poured millions into the campaign.

But many Oregonians simply saw it as another attempt at a sales tax in a state that doesn't have a sales tax and has consistently voted against one.



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